

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1598

**Introduced by Committee on Agriculture (Matthews (Chair),
Maze (Vice Chair), Berg, Cogdill, Parra, Salinas, and Vargas)**

February 22, 2005

An act to amend Section 63901 of the Food and Agricultural Code,
relating to agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1598, as introduced, Committee on Agriculture. Agricultural
and seafood industries.

Existing law declares that the agricultural and seafood industries are
vitaly important elements of the state's economy that are supported
by commissions and councils, as specified, that are intended to,
among other things, reflect a continuing commitment by the State of
California to its agricultural and seafood industries which encourage
responsible stewardship of valuable land and marine resources and
produce substantial quantities of necessary food and fiber for the state,
nation, and world.

This bill would list water resources among those resources, the
responsible stewardship of which, is encouraged by the agricultural
and seafood industries. This bill would make other technical,
nonsubstantive changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 63901 of the Food and Agricultural
- 2 Code is amended to read:

63901. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the agricultural and seafood industries are vitally important elements of the state's economy and are supported by state established commissions and councils specified in this division that are mandated to enhance and preserve the economic interests of the State of California and are intended to do all of the following:

(a) Implement public policy through their expressive conduct. The programs conducted by these commissions and councils are among the broad range of state-mandated regulatory programs that are funded by the public through user fees assessed in accordance with each person's relationship to a particular program.

(b) Reflect a continuing commitment by the State of California to its agricultural and seafood industries that are integral to its economy. These industries are a source of substantial employment for the state's citizens, produce needed tax revenues for the support of state and local government, encourage responsible stewardship of valuable land, *water*, and marine resources, and produce substantial *quantities of* necessary food ~~and~~, fiber, *and other agricultural products* for the state, nation, and world.

(c) Represent a policy of support for persons engaged in the agricultural and seafood industries, which are critically important elements of the state's economy. These commissions and councils are particularly important for the continued success of California's unique agricultural and seafood industries which tend to be decentralized with many small entities operating in diverse locations.

(d) Provide benefit to the entire industry and all of the people of this state. The commissions and councils are not enacted, and are not intended to produce measurable benefit, on an individual basis, and their successes should be evaluated by analyzing the extent to which they have improved the overall conditions for the particular commodity subject to the commission's or council's jurisdiction with resulting benefit to the overall economy of the state.

(e) Enhance the image of California agricultural and seafood products to increase the overall demand for these commodities. In this fashion, the Legislature intends that the commissions and councils operate primarily for the purpose of creating a more

- 1 receptive environment for the commodity and for the individual
- 2 efforts of those persons in the industry, and thereby compliment
- 3 individual, targeted, and specific activities.

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